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**Commander's Letter**

Welcome to Fall in the Wenatchee Valley! If I could see my outdoor thermometer through the smoke, I'd give you an update on the falling temperatures. Yet as I write this, the skies seem to be clearing with the cooler breeze coming in from the southwest. Hopefully most of you were able to stay indoors during the worst of it.



We're getting geared up for a change in pace with several major projects behind us, now that summer is over. Our scholastic scholarship programs are in full swing as local students are back in school and they're working on their patriotic essays and speeches. The deadline to submit their entries for VOICE OF DEMOCRACY, PATRIOT'S PEN, and YOUTH ESSAYS is at the end of this month.

Our next projects are set around Veterans Day and the Christmas Holidays. Come join us for coffee every Friday from 0900-1030 at the Post to find out the specifics on what's happening around the Valley as it affects our Post and local veterans.

Thank you again for all you do to serve in our community and helping our military veterans and their families. **#StillServing**

**"VFW - Combat Tested & Battle Proven Since 1899"**

-- Commander Brad Pieratt

**From the Editor**

I continue to post photos and stories to our website which have been submitted by our members. Due to space limitations, some items may not get as much attention in the newsletter itself. Be sure to visit <https://vfwpost3617.org> to stay up to date on all our recent activities. And if you have something you'd like to share, email [vfw3617adj@gmail.com](mailto:vfw3617adj@gmail.com) with details (names, date, location, etc) and any photos. I'll put it together for publishing on the website and/or in the newsletter.

Also, please let me know of any mailing address updates, including if you'd prefer to only get this newsletter electronically to save us on postage.

-- Connie Hill, Newsletter / Webmaster



## Auxiliary President's Letter

The year is marching on and hopefully everyone is taking care of themselves especially considering the recent increase in smoke. As we are surrounded by fires, we hope none of our friends and neighbors lose their homes to the monster. We thank all of the brave men and women who are protecting life and property, including members of the Army National Guard flying their Chinooks on their mission to fight the fires.

On a lighter note, the annual Veteran's picnic was a great success. It was very well attended and a lot of fun. It was nice to get to see old friends and to make some new friends. Everyone seemed to be having a great time. The raffles were fun with lots of possibilities. There was such a variety to choose from and the gift card boards made it even more fun. Congratulations to everyone who took items home.

This year for **Gold Star family month** (which is September) the Auxiliary has chosen to honor a soldier with ties to Wenatchee. We will be having a Fallen Heroes banner made for **Army PFC Antonio Burnside**. He was killed in action on April 6, 2012 during Operation Enduring Freedom. He has family in Wenatchee who will now be able to carry his banner in the Apple Blossom Parade. It is a very small way we can recognize his family's loss and to honor him.

In October we will once again be doing a fundraiser at Fred Meyers: **Operation Bottom Cover**. This is a diaper drive to help the young military families in the Army Air National Guard unit at Pangborn. We will be at Fred Meyers on **October 18th** between 10:00 am and 2:00 pm. We are hoping this is as successful as it was last year with hundreds of diapers donated. We will once again distribute the diapers at Christmas time. If you want to donate diapers you can stop by Fred Meyers or drop diapers off at the Post. A special thank you Bicky LaRoque for chairing this event.

It was brought to my attention lately just how active our auxiliary is in our community. It takes help from all of the auxiliary members to keep everything moving. Remember: **Every small thing makes a big difference** in all we do. I want to personally thank everyone for their help. Our mission is to serve our Veterans and active military. We do it with honor and love.

As always if you have any suggestion or know of a veteran we can assist please give me a call. If you haven't been active lately, we would like to see you at a meeting or if you just want to talk please give me a call.

~ Shirley Lance, Auxiliary President

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## Chaplain's Message



*For everything there is a season, a time for every activity under heaven.*

– Ecclesiastes 3:1 NLT

The summer's heat begins to slowly fade. Cold beverages are replaced with warm apple cider. As the days grow shorter and a gentle crispness fills the air, we find ourselves once again in the embrace of autumn, the season of visible and vibrant change. Changes in the season can mean changes in the pace of life as well. With family holidays and possible delays in our daily activities due to inclement weather, we may become too busy to see some of the wonders and lessons God has in store for us.

A couple points of wisdom to keep in mind when facing changes in life:

1. **Slow down if you can** - Pause to consider the state of your heart. Take the time to ensure it aligns with what God would have you do.

2. **Let go** - 1 Peter 5:7 says to "... give all your worries to God..." Learn to say no to things that may overwhelm you or sap your energy. You still need to show up in your life and the lives of those you love, but let God worry about the details that stress you out.

3. **Embrace the new things** - Adjust your focus to embrace the things in your life that bring you joy. God promises in Isaiah 43:19 that He is doing something new. Even when the world around us looks like it is dying, God can use dead and broken things as the foundation for new and beautiful things.

*Excerpt from <https://www.klove.com/resources/blog/fall-a-season-of-change-6586>*

-- Chaplain Sarah Simonson

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## Veterans Service Booth at Douglas County Fair

On August 23, we made the annual trek up to the North Central Washington Fair at Waterville. This year we joined our Douglas Co. VSO, Sarah Simonson and the fishing guides of Operation Catching Freedom in the Patriot's Corner of the fairground to welcome active duty members and veterans alike to the fair.

We made several contacts with prospective members and referred several vets to our County VSO. Annabelle, our 1957 Navy Shore Patrol jeep, served as a great conversation starter. Overall, the weather was great and not too windy, and the Fair food didn't disappoint!



## Commemorative Air Force Visits Wenatchee

During the last week of August, a team from the Commemorative Air Force (CAF) was at Pangborn Airport with 2 WWII aircraft. The CAF pilots and crew based out of Mesa, AZ brought a B-17G named *Sentimental Journey* and a B-25J Mitchell named *Made in the Shade* to Pangborn for 4 days of flying and static display.

As the CAF does with most of their visits across the country, they offer free flights to a few local veterans in the community. Our own past Commander and Quartermaster, Dave Schwab, was selected for this honor. Be sure to visit our website to read the full story and see more photos:



<https://vfwpost3617.org/events/commemorative-air-force-visits-wenatchee/>

The **Commemorative Air Force** was founded to acquire, restore and preserve in flying condition a complete collection of combat aircraft which were flown by all military services of the United States for the education and enjoyment of present and future generations of Americans. More than just a collection of airworthy warplanes from the past, the CAF's fleet of historic aircraft recreate, remind and reinforce the lessons learned from the defining moments in American military aviation history.

## Nason Creek Rest Area

In something that has become a sort of annual tradition for our Auxiliary, we spend a few days each year offering coffee, snacks, and friendly conversation to travelers making their way over Stevens Pass that decide to stop at Nason Creek Rest Area.

We don't charge for these treats, but we graciously accept donations for the Auxiliary Family and Veterans Support fund, allowing us to continue doing what we do best, caring for our Veterans and their families.

This year, we spent 4 days up at Nason Creek Rest Area, Aug 26-29. Annabelle, our Shore Patrol Jeep, was there as well greeting the public. We received over \$1,800 in donations during those four days. A huge thanks to all of the volunteers who made this possible!



## Another Ramp Project Completed

On Sept 3, a group of volunteers from our Post installed a modular ramp at the home of a Vietnam veteran in East Wenatchee. The ramp components came from “Operation Ramp It Up”, a program solely managed by VFW Post 921 in Snohomish.

Our team arrived at 0800 to start the project and were able to finish by noon. A big Thanks to everyone that turned out for this project.



More details and photos at <https://vfwpost3617.org/news/another-ramp-project-for-a-local-veteran/>

## Annual Veterans Picnic



Another successful veteran’s picnic is in the books! On Sunday, September 14, the Wenatchee Valley VFW and American Legion Post 10 hosted the annual All-Veterans Picnic at Walla Walla Point Park. We had cooler temperatures and the threat of rain for the day’s forecast, which amounted to only about half of the expected participants showed. But the truth is, the temperature was in the mid-70s and the rain stayed away until early evening. All told, we had about 100 people turn out for this event. The ladies of both auxiliaries teamed up to provide a wonderful selection of side dishes and desserts and the volunteer chef’s from the Legion and VFW did an outstanding job with the burgers, dogs, German bratwurst, and fresh corn from Kallstrom Sweet Corn in Quincy.



Towards the end of the picnic we held the drawing for donated prizes and the highly anticipated 50/50 Drawing which sold more the 500 tickets. The cleanup was expedient thanks to the volunteers that stayed after and made short work of it. Thanks to everyone that volunteered, attended or donated for the raffles. We couldn’t have done it without you.

## Another Quilt of Valor Presented



On Friday, Sept 12, at our weekly coffee event, Dennis Brouwers was honored with a presentation as he received a handmade Quilt of Valor. Dennis, a veteran of the Air Force, is an active member of our post, often donating volunteer time and handmade wooden keepsakes for raffles. He's also part of the team behind the Thomas A. Biddle Foundation alongside his wife Nancy (member of our Auxiliary).

**Quilts of Valor** are quality, handmade quilts that are awarded to a Service Member or Veteran who has been touched by war. The Quilt says unequivocally, "Thank you for your service and sacrifice in serving our nation."

## Honoring Dave Schwab at our quarterly luncheon

Our VFW Quarterly Luncheon was held at "Ay Caramba" Mexican Restaurant in East Wenatchee on September 23rd with a nice crowd of members attending.

One of the secrets behind this luncheon was to honor Dave Schwab for his many years of service as both Quartermaster and Commander of our Post. Dave was presented a special "Heroes First Aid Kit" and a nicely framed picture of Sentimental Journey in remembrance of his historic first flight on a B-17 a few weeks ago. Commander Pieratt also proudly presented Dave with a "VFW Lifetime Achievement Award" from the membership of this Post and the veterans in our valley to show our sincere appreciation. Thank you Dave for your many years of leadership and service!



Dave Schwab, left, receives the VFW Lifetime Achievement Award from Brad Pieratt

*Editor's note - read more about Dave's service on our website:*  
<https://vfwpost3617.org/news/lifetime-achievement-award-dave-schwab/>

### Suriano's Words of Wisdom

*I stayed up all night to see where the sun went,  
and then it dawned on me.*

## Planning Ahead – Upcoming Dates to Note

- Oct 13 Happy 250<sup>th</sup> Birthday US Navy!
- Oct 15 Post Meeting at 7pm (potluck starts at 6pm)
- Oct 31 Deadline to receive entries for Voice of Democracy, Patriot's Pen, and WA Youth Essay contests
- Nov 2 Daylight Savings Time ends – set clocks BACK 1 hour
- Nov 5-7 Local School Programs for Veterans Day
- Nov 8 Buddy Poppy Day at local stores - **Volunteers Needed!**
- Nov 10 Happy 250<sup>th</sup> Birthday US Marine Corps!
- Nov 11 Veterans Day:  
Parade starts at 10:30am - BBQ at Pybus at noon-ish
- Nov 15 District Meeting at 1pm (potluck lunch at noon) – includes judging the Voice of Democracy, Patriot's Pen, and Youth Essay entries from around the District
- Nov 19 Post Meeting at 7pm (potluck starts at 6pm)
- Nov 27 Thanksgiving
- Dec 14 Wreaths Across America
- Jan 8-10 VFW Dept of WA Mid-Winter Conference in Tacoma



Coming up in December (dates still TBD) are our annual Post Holiday Party and the Army National Guard Holiday Party (volunteers will be needed).  
Check with a Post Officer for more info.

## Zoom Meeting Information

Join a zoom meeting one of 3 ways:

1. Use the Zoom app, tap Join
2. Visit <https://zoom.us/join/>
3. Dial +1 253 215 8782

then enter the Meeting ID and Passcode when prompted.

Upcoming business meetings:

**15 Oct & 19 Nov** at 7pm

Meeting ID: **815 7531 2989**

Passcode: **996024**

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